

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Board of Managers to the Maryland Colonization Society and the Public.

AT the date of their last Annual Report, the Board of Managers were busily engaged in preparing to send an expedition to the Liberian coast of Africa, to purchase territory and establish a colony at Cape Palmas, for the reception, exclusively, of emigrants from Maryland, and under the sole management and control of the State Society. The reasons for this independent action were so fully detailed in the last report of the Board, that it is deemed unnecessary to recapitulate them at this time. Suffice it to say, that the experience of the past year has forcibly shown the wisdom of the system adopted by the State Society. Upon its success, the Board of Managers believe, now depends, in a great degree, the present efficient operation of the grand scheme of African colonization. Maryland, through her State Society, is about trying the important experiment, whether, by means of colonies on the coast of Africa, slave holding states may become free states. For this purpose was the idea of colonization first promulgated; and for this purpose has there been that expenditure of life and money which has resulted in demonstrating the practicability of founding settlements, in their father land, of the colored people of the United States. If Maryland, with so many circumstances operating in her favor—with a colored population that does not increase,—with a prevailing sentiment among her citizens adverse to the perpetuation of slavery within her borders,—with legislative action lending its powerful and efficient aid,—if Maryland, thus situated, cannot succeed in the experiment, other states may well despair, and the friends of the cause throughout the land may